

COUNCIL MEETING.

The fifty-second meeting of the Council of the Medical Society of the State of California was held at noon of the 17th of September at the Cosmos Club, San Francisco. There were present Drs. Kenyon, Ewer, Ryfkogel, Edwards, Grosse, Parkinson, Aiken and Jones; the Chairman, Dr. Kenyon, in the chair.

The matter of Medical Defense of members was brought up and the Secretary reported that there were two actual and one threatened suits, all in Los Angeles, and that all steps had been taken to see that the suits were properly and fully defended.

The question had been raised as to whether the assessment for Medical Defense levied by the House of Delegates at the last Annual Meeting was an assessment upon members direct or upon County Societies, and whether it was optional with members to pay it or not. The Council was unanimous in its interpretation of the action of the House of Delegates as levying the assessment upon County Societies and not upon individuals; individual members have not the privilege of paying the additional dollar or not; it is an assessment of one dollar per member upon each County Medical Society as such.

The Secretary was instructed to write a letter to all County Medical Societies explaining this point and calling attention to the success of our Medical Defense efforts and also the success which similar work has received in other states. It was particularly pointed out that New York had defended 128 suits without losing a single case.

A statement as to the condition of work on the 1910 edition of the Register and Directory was presented showing that the book would be issued in October and that enough advertising had been secured to just about pay for it.

A vote of thanks was extended to Dr. Robert E. Bering, Chairman of the Advertising Committee, for his energetic and successful work in securing advertisements for the Register and the Journal.

On motion regularly carried, the Secretary was instructed to prepare a full account of the proceedings of each meeting of the Council, for publication in the State Journal.

The Secretary presented a financial statement showing an improvement in the business of the Journal and a cash balance on hand of \$2,771. It was therefore decided to take up, at once, \$1,000 of the outstanding loan of \$1,500; it was the opinion of the Council that the Society should save the interest being paid on the long term notes and if funds should be necessary, temporarily, the money could be borrowed on short term notes from the bank.

Considerable time was devoted to a general discussion of various details of the Medical Defense work, but no changes whatever were made in the general plan and every member in good standing will be defended as heretofore.

PHILIP MILLS JONES, Secretary.

ANTI-MENINGITIS SERUM.

The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, which has been supplying the antimeningitis serum gratis for several years, announces that it may discontinue, at any time after the expiration of the next six months, its preparation and distribution on a large scale.

The consensus of medical opinion, based on the employment of the antimeningitis serum in widely separated epidemics of meningitis, is to the effect that it is of undoubted value in reducing the mortality and preventing the severe consequences of the disease.

The serum is without effect in any other form of meningitis than that caused by *Diplococcus intracellularis* (Weichselbaum), and its favorable action is most pronounced when it is applied early in the course of the disease. Hence the institute believes it is desirable that state and municipal laboratories engaged in the preparation of diphtheria antitoxin and allied products should undertake the preparation of the serum and provide means for controlling the bacteriological diagnosis of meningitis, as they now do diphtheria and some other diseases. Unless the bacteriological diagnosis is controlled by competent authorities, the serum will, undoubtedly, be applied in some cases of meningitis due to causes which are not subject to its action, and not a few cases of epidemic meningitis will be deprived of the benefit of its use.

The serum is administered by being injected into the spinal canal by means of lumbar puncture, which operation is also required to secure the fluid for the bacteriological diagnosis; and several separate injections of the serum are required in treating a given case. The effective employment of the serum is likely, therefore, to be restricted on account of the experience and skill required in its administration and the high cost of the commercial product, unless the preparation, distribution and, when necessary, administration are undertaken by state and municipal authorities.

July 1, 1910.

THE HENRY PHIPPS INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY, PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Mr. Henry Phipps of New York has selected the University of Pennsylvania to carry on the work of the Phipps Institute. Mr. Phipps has already acquired ground in Philadelphia on which will be erected a hospital for this purpose. The extent of the benefaction exceeds \$500,000.

The report of the committee selected to consider the future policy of the institute has been approved by Mr. Phipps and the trustees of the University.

The work will be divided into three general departments, each of which will be presided over by a director. For the directorship of the Laboratory, Dr. Paul Lewis, now of the Rockefeller Institute, has been selected. For directorship of the Sociological Department, Mr. Alexander M. Wilson of the Boston Association for the Relief and Control of Tuberculosis. Dr. H. R. M. Landis has accepted the appointment as director of the Clinical Department.

In addition to a board of eight directors who will be directly responsible to the trustees of the University, an advisory council has been created and will meet annually at the institute. The following have accepted the invitation to serve as members of this body: Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, Harrisburg, Pa.; Dr. S. McC. Lindsay, New York City; Dr. William H. Baldwin, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Hermann M. Biggs, New York City; Dr. William H. Welch, Baltimore, Md.; Dr. Theobald Smith, Boston, Mass.; Dr. Gideon Wells, Chicago, Ill.; Dr. Simon Flexner, New York City; Dr. James A. Miller, New York City; Dr. Lawrence Brown, Saranac, N. Y.; Dr. Henry Baird Favell, Chicago, Ill., and Dr. James Pratt, Boston, Mass.